

To the Honourable, the General Assembly of the State of S. Carolina

The Petitioner James W. Mills humbly represents to this
Honorable body - that about the third of June 1824 your Petition was
introduced, in York's District, S. Carolina^(C. George), with Mary Ann ~~Ames~~
in the expectation that she was a chaste Woman and possessed of
such qualities of mind and disposition as would be likely to secure
his happiness in the matrimonial state - that after the short space of
about fifteen days, during which your Petitioner treated her with
all that affection and tenderness which first prompted the Union
on his part, she eloped from the house of Petitioner's Father, whom,
by reason of the declining years of his Parents, and their having
no other children, he had brought her to reside, and went to the
house of a single Man, to whom, as is generally believed, she
bore a Child, about seven months after her marriage with her
which was not born prematurely; and with which, as your Petitioner
has since learned and believes, she was then pregnant - after staying
at his house, without any female companion, for 1 night and part
of 2 days, she went to her Father's house, where she has, for the
last year, since continued - that your Petitioner, having united
his destiny with hers, and desirous of happiness, sought in the
Society of the Clergy whom his Friends, as well as his solemn
would taught him to cherish and defend - For giving her those
errors that might have been the result of youth, of principal
delication for human frailty (which time, he thought, and his
own affectionate address might remove - his son of her, several
times, in the most urgent manner to return to a conciliatory
though much injured Husband and proposed to take her to the
"work" or any place she would choose for a residence - but she only
refused to do but on the last occasion, do out a knife from
her bosom and said if he insisted on his right to make her
return she would cut his throat! That Petitioner Pending